Wheat Procurement

1849. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat procurement for the marketing season 1998-99 has reached 9.3 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the details of the region-wise procurement and the extent to which these are higher as compared to previous years; and

(c) whether FCI has adequate storage facilities for the procured wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) 12.10 million tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 8.6.98 in the current Rabi Marketing Season 1998-99, as against 8.63 million tonnes procured during the corresponding period of last season.

A statement showing State-wise procurement of wheat during 1997-98 and 1998-99 Marketing Season is attached *(See below)*.

(c) The storage capacity available with FCI is sufficient at macro level to store the procured wheat.

Statement

State-wise procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98 and 1998-99

(in lakh tonnes)

State	1997-98	1998-99 (As on 8.6.98)
Bihar	Neg.	Neg.
Gujarat	—	0.01
Haryana	22.90	31.13
Himachal Pradesh	—	Neg.
Madhya Pradesh	1.07	4.54
Punjab	59.61	61.17
Rajasthan	3.20	6.39
Uttar Pradesh	6.18	17.72
Chandigarh	0.02	—
Delhi	Neg.	0.08
TOTAL	92.98	121.04

NEG.: Below 500 tonnes.

Implementation of the wheat import deal signed by previous Government

1850. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat import deal signed by previous Government with Australia has been implemented by present Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps for ensuring that exotic weeds are not found in the imported wheat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government, after reviewing the status of wheat production during 1997-98 rabi season, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99. Accordingly, as per the authorisation given by the Government, the STC entered into contracts with the Australian Wheat Board (AWB) on 26.2.98 and 27.2.98 for import of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia on FOB basis at US $142.50 per tonne. The entire contracted quantity is being imported. As per the schedule drawn up, 10.5 lakh tonnes of wheat will come in by June/July, 1998, and the remaining 4.5 lakh tonnes will be shipped from Australia after the monsoons.

(c) and (d) As advised by the Ministry of Agriculture, a list of identified exotic weeds was communicated by the STC to the exporting agency, i.e., Australian Wheat Board with request to them to ensure that the consignments are kept free of these weeds to the extent possible. However, the Plant Quarantine Authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture have intercepted some exotic weed seeds in the consignments of wheat. Since the presence of exotic weed seeds cannot be totally ruled out, in order to ensure that